Setting up of food processing industries in Sikkim

628. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up new food processing industries in Sikkim during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of incentives proposed to be provided to the industrialists who intend to set up such industries in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. Under the Mini Mission IV of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, J&K, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, assistance at still higher rates *i.e.* @ 50% upto Rs. 4 crores for promotion of new units and upto Rs. 1 crore for Upgradation/modernization of existing units is available for processing of horticulture produce. Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up Food Processing Industries on its own.

A revamped Scheme for Infrastructure Development will be implemented under which, it will give financial assistance in the form of grant for setting up of Mega Food Parks, cold chain infrastructure, value added centers and packaging centres preferably in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model. The Mega Food Park Scheme will provide backward and forward linkages as well as reliable and sustainable supply chain. The cluster based demand driven approach will provide linkages from farm to market with linkges from local to regional level through Primary Processing Centres, Collection Centres, Strategic Distribution Centre-cum-Cold Chain at critical locations-having controlled Atmosphere storage and distribution centres where large quantities can be stored and supplied to distribution centres for fresh sale and to processing industries for processing. In addition, The Ministry will be providing assistance in the form of grant to private sector/public sector organizations through scheme for setting up of Food Testing Labs, Implementation of Quality Systems such as HACCP, ISO 9000, GHP and GMP, Promotion of Research and Development, capacity building and Human Resource Development and other promotional activities.

Domestic Agro processing Industry

629. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing any steps to consolidate the domestic agro processing industry, comprising a large number of small players across the country;

(b) if so, the details of the incentives and promotional steps taken to help the small and entrepreneurs, to consolidate capacities through mergers and acquisitions; and